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army, disclosed that the army was bound for Utah.

Smoot returned as rapidly as possible toward the West. About one hundred miles east of Fort Laramie he met Orrin P. Rockwell, heading east with the mail.

It was decided that both would return speedily to Salt Lake City. Securing a small spring wagon at Fort Laramie to which they hitched two span of horses, and joined by Judson Stoddard, they covered the entire distance to Salt Lake City in five days. They arrived July 23, only to find the Mormon leader gone to Silver Lake.

Not even the news of an approaching



ability of their leaders, that the "war news" created but little excitement throughout Salt Lake City and the settlements.

Saints Prepare For War

Preparations for "war" however, went quietly forward. Under date of August 1, 1857, General Wells reported to the officers and men of the Nauvoo Legion the approach of an army to invade Utah. He instructed the district commanders to hold their respective divisions of the militia in readiness to march at the shortest possible notice to any part of the territory. They were

cautioned to "Avoid all excitement, but be ready."⁶

Word was also sent throughout the settlements to conserve the grain supply, to use none for the feeding of cattle, and to sell none to emigrant trains for that purpose.

The members of the Apostles' quorum presiding over the missions were recalled home and nearly all the elders on missions were recalled. Samuel W. Richards was dispatched with instructions to Orson Pratt and Ezra T. Benson in the British Mission. Enroute he delivered a letter to Colonel Thomas L. Kane, addressed to President Buchanan

⁶*Contributor*, Vol. 3, p. 177. Article, "The Echo Canyon War."